Lecture (May 12) + Miniseminar (May 13, 14, 15)

Lecture Title: "Jewish Self-Hatred"

Miniseminar title: "The Jewish Body"

Lecturer: Prof. Sander Gilman

“JEWISH SELF-HATRED”

Who are the “good” Jews; who are the “bad” Jews? And are the “bad” Jews really just “self-hating Jews”? And what does that actually mean? This question has radically reappeared since October 7. Sander Gilman, the author of the acclaimed Jewish-Self Hatred (1986), will speak on

the origin of the accusation of being a self-hating Jew in early Zionism, its trajectory after the Holocaust, and its newly restructured meaning today in our eternal attempt to understand who “really” is — in the end — Jewish enough.

"THE JEWISH BODY"

Two self-identified Jewish actors won best-actors academy awards in 2025: Adrien Brody as László Toth, playing a Hungarian-Jewish architect and Holocaust survivor, and Mikey Madison, playing ‘Ani’ Mikheeva, a high-priced Russian stripper and sometimes prostitute. Yet a controversy heralded the former, did he ‘look too Jewish’ and did he win because he looked

appropriate for a Holocaust survivor. What does that mean for the Jewish actor who played a Russian prostitute when no one asked whether she ‘looked too Jewish’ playing a redeemable whore? Beginning in the 1890s aesthetic surgery began to alter Jewish faces to look like — what, non-Jewish faces? — and after WWII the gift of a nose job became a standard practice for Jewish American women for their sixteenth birthday. Faces were and are read as revealing character. In three seminars — one on Jewish visibility, one on seeing Jewish women, and one on seeing Jewish men, Sander Gilman, the author of The Jew’s Body (1992) will discuss how notions of Jewish visibility have shifted over the past 150 years and what that means to imagine what is an appropriate appearance of a Jew — and maybe the very role of the Jew in our time.

BIO

Sander L. Gilman is a distinguished professor emeritus of the Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at Emory University. A cultural and literary historian, he is the author or editor of over one hundred books. His “Gebannt in diesem magischen Judenkreis”: Essays appeared with Wallstein Verlag (Göttingen) in 2022; his most recent edited

volume is Readers for Life: How Reading and Listening in Childhood Shape Us (London, 2024). He is the author of the basic study of the visual stereotyping of the mentally ill, Seeing the Insane, published by John Wiley and Sons in 1982 (reprinted: 1996 and 2014) as well as the standard study of Jewish Self-Hatred, the title of his Johns Hopkins University Press monograph of 1986, which remains in print. For twenty-five years he was a member of the humanities and medical faculties at Cornell University where he held the Goldwin Smith Professorship of Humane Studies. For six years he held the Henry R. Luce Distinguished Service Professorship of the Liberal Arts in Human Biology at the University of Chicago. For four years he was a distinguished professor of the Liberal Arts and Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he created the ‘Humanities Laboratory.’ During 1990-1991 he served as the Visiting Historical Scholar at the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD; 1996-1997 as a fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, CA; 2000-2001 as a Berlin prize fellow at the American Academy in Berlin; 2004-5 as the Weidenfeld Visiting Professor of European Comparative Literature at Oxford University; 2007 to 2012 as Professor at the Institute in the Humanities, Birkbeck College; 2010 to 2013 as a Visiting Research Professor at The

University of Hong Kong; and as the Alliance Professor of History at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich (2017-18). He has been a visiting professor in addition at other universities in North America, South Africa, The United Kingdom, Germany, Israel, and New Zealand. He was president of the Modern Language Association in 1995. He has been awarded a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) at the University of Toronto in 1997, elected an honorary professor at the Free University in Berlin (2000), an honorary member of the American Psychoanalytic Association (2007), and made a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2016).